are known regarding the total prisoner population, one thing is certain and that is that the entire Magadan enterprise is on a very large scale and that prisoners form the greatest majority of workers. Due to the fact that three known prisoner ships which were operating in 1940, the "Felix Dzherzhinskiy," "Uritsky," and "Dzhurma," are still plying the same Vladivostok-Magadan route, it is a reasonable assumption that the prisoner traffic is continuing. (Note: It is difficult to assume that these ships have changed the nature of their cargo inasmuch as it is definitely known that the holds of these ships were constructed in a special manner to transport large numbers of prisoners; although it is admittedly possible to change the internal structure of these three ships, it is dubious that this has been done, because it is known from reports from Radio Magadan that activities are being expanded throughout the Kolyma economy. Since the death rate has been so high in the past among prisoners, it is difficult to see how further development of the region could be undertaken without importing further number of prisoners every year.)

8) The City of Magadan: One of the results of Berzin's administration was the construction of the city of Magadan; by 1941 the population of this city had been estimated at approximately 70,000, composed of NKVD officials and hired specialists who volunteered for service under the Dalstroy administration. It was further estimated that at that time there were some 50,000 such specialists scattered throughout the region. Another section of the population in the Magadan area, numbering a few thousands, was represented by exiles, mostly highly qualified experts whose work in Dalstroy had entitled them to some special privileges, although they are still subject to the NKVD. Outside of the city of Magadan there were several big camps for prisoners with fluctuating populations.

The central streets of the city were lined with two- and three story houses. Electricity was provided by a power station which also supplied electricity to the taiga areas by means of wires strung over the surrounding mountain ridges.

The population of Magadan faced a problem in the procurement of foodstuffs. In an effort to relieve this situation, "Magadan has a large experimental farm equipped with hothouses. The latter already (1941) grew 'Kolyma' apples, pears, peaches, and even oranges, not to mention a variety of berries, while all kinds of vegetables are developed in the hotbeds, including cucumbers, cabbage, eggplant, muskmelon, and watermelon."[12] The chief problem in the attempts at agriculture was the geological ice. Repeated deep plowing of the soil, the use of fertilizer in great quantities, and similar measures have been used in scientific experiments and have achieved good results. Thus, in some places the ice formerly came to within one to two feet from the surface of the ground, but it has been pushed down to six or eight feet, which has made possible the cultivation of cereals. (Note: Agriculture in Magadan and the entire Kolyma region will be treated in a subsequent report.)

9) Summation: The entire Kolyma region is growing in importance constantly, and due to the produce obtained from this area, in addition to the increasing population, Magadan and the hinterland cannot be ignored or treated lightly. There are two general aspects of the Kolyma region which should be noted:

1) In the New York Times of 9 January 1946, it was reported that there is total gold supply in Moscow of between the wide range of two and ten billion dollars. The interesting aspect of this surmise is the fact that in 1925 or even in 1930 the Soviet government was forced to sell the treasures of Russian museums in order to pay for machinery that it had purchased abroad. Soviet gold has made its appearance only

[12] Dallin, op. cit., p. 133.

during the years 1931 and 1934, and it continued to appear in increasing quantities even during the "Great Fatherland War" when the entire nation was absorbed in the defeat of the German armies. The Soviet Union was in great need of gold some twenty-five years ago, but the gold supplies have grown immensely since that time; the richest gold-producing area in the Soviet Union is Kolyma, and due to the known build-up of the area, it is a reasonable assumption that Kolyma is providing the Soviet Government with the majority of its growing gold reserves. It is this fact that makes Magadan and the entire Kolyma area of such importance, not only to the internal economy of the Soviet Union but also to the future of world politics, because it is a well-known fact that the Soviet Union will use any means at its disposal to increase its international prestige. It is not mere speculation that Soviet offers of economic assistance to foreign nations may have the backing of Kolyma gold. 436 433

2) The Kolyma region is intended to become a self-sufficient area, not only in agriculture but also in fishing and numerous other industries including the production of coal, oil, machinery; among others. A similar situation as was found in Sakhalin may also be said to exist in Kolyma--local self-sufficiency while exporting to the interior the products desired by the Communist planners. For Sakhalin it was concluded that the overall plan was for the Oblast to become self-sufficient while exporting to the mainland oil and fish products; for Magadan and Kolyma, it also appears that the overall picture calls for self-sufficiency while exporting gold to Moscow. 433